

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 AEC-11 AID-20

CEA-02 CIEP-03 COME-00 EB-11 FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01

SCI-06 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 EA-11 IO-14 AF-10 DRC-01

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R 150855Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1936

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1101

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TC, SA

SUBJECT: SIGNING OF UAE-SAUDI BORDER AGREEMENT

KUWAIT ALSO PASS DOHA AND MUSCAT

REF: A. ABU DHABI 1092 (NOTAL, B. JIDDA 5655, C. KUWAIT 3347
(NOTAL, D. ABU DHABI 1009, E. ABU DHABI 1053.

1. SUMMARY. COURTESY CALL AUGUST 14 ON ABDULLA ISMAIL,
UNDER SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT PETROLEUM AND INDUSTRY, ABU
DHABI GOVERNMENT (ADG), PRODUCED FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING
BOTH SHAIKH ZAYID'S PLANS VISIT SAUDI ARABIA FOR SIGNING
BORDER AGREEMENT (REFS A AND B) AS WELL AS TERMS OF AGREE-
MENT ITSELF. END SUMMARY.

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2. RE SHAIKH ZAYID'S PLANS, IT HAS NOW BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT

ON LEAVING MAURITANIA AUGUST 15 HE WILL FLY TO CAIRO FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE DAY VISIT. (PRESS HERE PLAYS VISIT IN CONTEXT CONTINUATION ZAYID'S EFFORT MEDIATE BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND CAIRO, EFFORT WHICH, REGARDLESS ATTITUDE IN CAIRO (CAIRO 6016), APPARENTLY TAKEN SERIOUSLY HERE.) MOREOVER, ACCORDING ISMAIL UAE MIN PETROLEUM PLANNING JOIN ZAYID IN CAIRO EITHER AUGUST 15 OR 16. IT THEREFORE NOW APPEARS, CONSISTENT WITH ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL SAUDI ARABIA AUGUST 19 (REF B), THAT ZAYID WILL NOT BE RETURNING ABU DHABI PRIOR HIS MEETING WITH KING FAISAL FOR SIGNING BORDER AGREEMENT.

3. RE DETAILS OF AGREEMENT, ISMAIL STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE OVER PAST FEW DAYS FOR PREPARING DRAFT WHICH ZAYID WOULD USE IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH FAISAL. HE NOTED THAT THIS HAD BEEN DIFFICULT TASK BECAUSE (A) HE (ISMAIL) HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT WHEN ZAYID AND FAHD REACHED ACCORD JULY 29; (B) AGREEMENT REACHED AT THAT TIME HAD BEEN WEAK IN DETAILS; AND (C) SEVERAL MINOR POINTS HAD BEEN LEFT FOR LATER RESOLUTION BY ZAYID AND FAISAL. GIVEN THESE UNCERTAINTIES PLUS DEGREE OF RETICENCE ON PART ISMAIL TO DISCUSS FINE POINTS PRIOR TO FORMAL SIGNING, SOME ELEMENTS REMAIN IMPRECISE. FOLLOWING ARE ESSENTIALS, HOWEVER, AS ISMAIL PROVIDED THEM, AND IN PARTICULAR DIFFERENCES FROM HABROUSH'S ACCOUNT REF D:

4. AS STATED REF D, SAUDIS WILL GET CORRIDOR TO GULF, BUT ISMAIL INDICATED IT WOULD RUN FROM BAY DESIGNATED ON MAP AS DOHAT TULLAB DUE SOUTH TO OLD BORDER SLIGHTLY WEST OF AL-SUFUQ. HE CONFIRMED HABROUSH'S VERSION THAT NEW LINE, AFTER FOLLOWING OLD BORDER FOR SHORT DISTANCE WOULD THEN DIVERGE EASTWARD GIVING SAG TRINGLE OF LAND FORMERLY CLAIMED BY ADG. BUT RATHER THAN THIS LAND BEING WORTHLESS, ACCORDING ISMAIL IT WILL INCLUDE ALL OF MARZOUK OIL FIELD WHICH PHILLIPS PETROLEUM HAS BEEN SEEKING TO DEVELOP--SO FAR WITH LIMITED SUCCESS. NEW LINE WOULD STOP NORTH OF OLD BORDER (PRECISE POINT NOT CLEAR) AND THEN PROCEED EASTWARD TO PRESENT INTERSECTION UAE-SAUDI-OMAN BORDER AT AL-ZUMUL (I.E. SOUTHERN BORDER WILL RUN SLIGHTLY NORTH OF LINE AS DESCRIBED BY HABROUSH). RESULT AS DESCRIBED BY ISMAIL IS THAT MOST OF ZARARA FIELD WOULD GO TO SAUDI ARABIA--E.G. HE STATES THAT OF THREE WELLS DRILLED

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IN ZARARA FIELD, TWO WOULD GO TO SAUDIS AND ONLY ONE TO ABU DHABI RATHER THAN VICE VERSA AS INDICATED BY HABROUSH. FINALLY LAST FIELD, WHICH HABROUSH HAD STATED WOULD REMAIN WHOLELY IN ABU DHABI TERRITORY, WOULD ACCORDING ISMAIL BE RIGHT ON NEW BORDER (THIS FIELD, AS SURMISED REF C, IS THAT IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO TRI-BORDER INTERSECTION). OVERALL RESULT IS THAT SAUDIS GAINING ALL OR PART OF THREE OIL FIELDS AND IN ISMAIL'S ESTIMATION PERHAPS MILLION BPD IN

POTENTIAL CRUDE PRODUCTION.

5. RE QUESTION (REF E) OF OFFSHORE RIGHTS ALONG SHORELINE CEDED TO SAUDIS, ISMAIL NOTED THAT SAG RIGHTS ENDED AT THREE MILE LIMIT. BUT RATHER THAN RIGHTS BEYOND THIS POINT BEING RETAINED BY ADG, THEY ARE, IN STRANGE TWIST, TO BE ALLOCATED TO UAE AS WHOLE. AND AT LEAST ONE OF ISLANDS LYING BEYOND THREE MILE LIMIT WILL GO TO SAUDIS, ALONG WITH ITS THREE MILES OF ADJACENT WATER.

6. COMMENT: CLEARLY, ADDITIONAL DETAILS PROVIDED BY ISMAIL ONLY SERVE TO MAKE IT ALL MORE NECESSARY TO GET FINAL MAP OF NEW BORDER PLUS TEXT OF AGREEMENT ACTUALLY SIGNED BY ZAYID AND FAISAL IN ORDER FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED. IT ALREADY SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT COMPROMISE IS NOT SIMPLE ONE AND THAT SAUDIS MAY HAVE PROFITED BIT MORE THAN ORIGINALLY INDICATED. EVEN SHOULD THIS PROVE CORRECT, HOWEVER, WE STILL BELIEVE POINTS MADE REF E RE BENEFIT THIS AGREEMENT TO ALL REMAIN VALID.
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